

4 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geography Division, ORR

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ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Request for Information

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1. This joint memorandum is to make as a matter of record, the discussion between [REDACTED] on 24 March 1960 pertaining to requests for information on geographical and political borders contiguous with communist bloc nations.

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2. Specifically, we are interested in any details which might lend themselves to either political or propaganda action concerning the possible or probable existence of future controversies between nations having a common boundary with a communist-dominated or bloc countries.

3. Attention was invited by [REDACTED] to the present controversy involving Communist China and India over the validity of the McMahon line, and between Pakistan and Afghanistan on the Durand Line. Both of these borders were made by the British and are now being challenged by communist powers as being invalid because the agreements were "forced" upon other nations by an "imperialistic, colonial power". The NE, FE, and AF/S Divisions believe that other border controversies might arise from this arbitrary communist definition, and it is with this purpose in mind that we should like information (both statutory and definitive) concerning the borders of the following nations:

a. NE Division

- (1) Turkish-USSR border.
- (2) Iranian-USSR border.
- (3) Afghan-USSR border.
- (4) Iraq-Iran border.
- (5) Iraq-Syria border.
- (6) Iraq-Jordan border.

b. FE Division

- (1) The northern borders of Burma, Laos, and Vietnam, contiguous to Communist China.
- (2) The North Korean-Manchurian border as well as that eastern portion touching Siberia, USSR.

(3) The Soviet-Chocom border, particularly the USSR-Mongolian, and the USSR-Sinkiang border.

(4) Tibet-China.

(5) Netherlands New Guinea-Indonesia.

c. AF/S Division

(1) All of the borders of French Guinea.

(2) The Ghana-Togo border.

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4. It was understood by [REDACTED] that such a border survey has been in process between the Geography Division of ORR and the State Department on a Priority III basis. [REDACTED] believed that this survey would be completed within the next six to ten months. Rather than 25X1A9a elevate the request of the three divisions to a higher priority, [REDACTED] agreed that the priority should remain the same but ORR would concentrate on those areas of specific interest to the three Divisions. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a stated that the interested Divisions would be provided with the information as it is compiled rather than wait until the entire project is completed.

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(Signed) [REDACTED]

for [REDACTED]

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Chief
Near East and South Asia
Division

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cc: [REDACTED]